

REMARKS

The subject further preliminary amendment is respectfully submitted for consideration by the Office. Attention is directed to Applicant's copending applications, namely, related U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 10/567,264 entitled WEAPON GRIP ASSEMBLY, an application from which the instant continuation-in-part application originates, and unrelated U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 11/573,026 entitled AN INTERFACE APPARATUS FOR MOUNTING A PORTABLE ILLUMINATION TOOL & RELATED ILLUMINATION ASSEMBLY.

Accompanying the subject filing is an Information Disclosure Statement. Consideration of the listed references is requested.

In connection to the subject prosecution, and as was proposed/requested in a contemporaneously filed Further Preliminary Amendment in the cited copending application, in furtherance of identifying allowable subject matter with regard to the present, further preliminary amendment and securing a first action allowance, undersigned would be pleased to interview the case. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests an interview pursuant to 37 CFR §1.133 and MPEP §713 III, more particularly, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.133(a) and MPEP §713.02 for such purpose and to the extent that objections/rejections are contemplated or intended to be asserted. In as much as a first action has yet to issue, with the subject filing being a national phase filing of international PCT application US/04/03760, an International Search Report, Written

Opinion and International Preliminary Examination Report are available.

As referenced in Applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated May 17, 2006, original claims 29-34, which are generally directed to Applicant's weapon grip embodiment of FIG. 15/16, satisfy the criteria of PCT Art. 33(2)-(3) (see IPRP mailed March 6, 2006). In as much as claim 29 was re-written as an independent claim in furtherance of allowance, claims 29-34 are hereby canceled without prejudice in favor of the pursuit and acquisition of generic weapon grip subject matter. Please be advised that Applicant reserves the right to pursue said claims, or variants thereof, in one or more continuing applications as the case may be.

Of published claims 29-74, claims 39-66 remain. Claims 29-34, and 67-74 are cancelled without prejudice, and claims 39-41, 47, 49, 54, 60, 65, and 66 are amended for the sake of clarity. Of newly added claims 75-89, the independent claims are claim 75, 88, and 89.

Subject Matter of the Independent Claims: 39, 65, 75, 88 & 89

All independent claims, namely, claims 39, 65, and newly added claims 75, 88 and 89 are each directed to a weapon grip assembly characterized by clamp portions or segments which are either independently or separately retained upon a clamp end of a post (claim 39), each separately pivotable with respect to a base assembly (claim 65), or each pivotably supported at a clamp end of

a clamp base assembly so as to extend therefrom (claims 75, 88 & 89). An overview of each of said claims follows.

Claim 39 is generally directed to a weapon grip assembly characterized by a base assembly, more particularly, a base assembly comprising a post having a clamp end adapted to mechanically and independently retain opposingly paired clamp portions. **Claim 65** is likewise generally directed to a weapon grip assembly characterized by a base assembly, with clamp portions thereof being separately pivotable with respect thereto.

Each of claims 75, 88, and 89 are generally directed to a weapon grip assembly generally characterized by features and/or relationships between and among a handle, a clamp base assembly, a collar and clamp segments. **Claim 75** emphasizes the nature of both the collar and the clamp segments, and requires, among other things, a collar having upper and lower portions, the upper portion thereof characterized by first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls united by a floor, with a set of the first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls including a beveled top edge for engagement with a clamp segment of the clamp segments. **Claim 88** emphasizes the nature of the clamp segments, generally in keeping with claim 75, and requires, among other things, that each clamp segment include a concave segment and a free end characterized by a profiled tip. **Claim 89** emphasizes the nature of the collar, generally in keeping with claim 75, and requires, among other

things, a collar having upper and lower portions, the upper portion thereof characterized by first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls united by a floor, with a set of the first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls including a beveled top edge for engagement with a clamp segment of the clamp segments.

Applicant's Claimed Subject Matter & References of Record

Of the references of record, **Reising** and **Davies** teach a weapon forend handgrip characterized by an actuatable clamp or jaw. Be that as it may, neither Reising or Davies, alone or in combination with the other references of record, teach or fairly suggest Applicant's claimed features and/or interrelationships between and among same.

Reising provides a spring reinforced yoke having arms 16 & 18 (FIG. 2) which may be drawn together/apart via manipulation of bolt 27 which passes through spring elements 25. Among other things, Reising lacks a collar, and further lacks any notion of clamp portions or segments which are independently or separately retained upon a clamp end of a post (claim 39), each separately pivotable with respect to a base assembly (claim 65), or each pivotably supported at a clamp end of a clamp base assembly so as to extend therefrom (claims 75, 88 & 89).

Davies discloses, as noted in Applicant's Remarks dated May 17, 2006, a device to facilitate cartridge ejection from a gun having a sleeve-like cartridge ejector operating handle. With

regard to clamp segments 12, 13, a pin 25 extends from shank element 19 for receipt within aperture 26 in shank element 23 "to pivotally connect shank element 23 to the upper portion 20 of the shank element 19" (2:25-27; see also FIGS. 4 & 6). Absent is any teaching of either a base assembly comprising a post having a clamp end adapted to mechanically and independently retain opposingly paired clamp portions (claim 39), or a base assembly with clamp portions thereof being separately pivotable with respect thereto (claim 65).

Davies further shows slotted sleeve 30 provided with a molded external hand grip element 33. A portion of shank 19 is operatively received within the sleeve which includes a flaring bore 31 at the upper portion thereof. Absent is any teaching of an upper collar portion for receipt of a clamp end of a base assembly characterized by first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls, let alone first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls united by a floor (claim 75 & 89).

Finally, Davies further teaches a "long" clamp segment 12 and a not-as-long clamp segment 13 (1: 71-72, see also FIG. 4). Each clamp segment 12, 13 includes a surface having an inwardly directed arcuate rib 16, 17 (2:5-6, FIG. 6). In contradistinction to such teaching, Applicant requires that each clamp segment include a concave segment, and also include a free end characterized by a profiled tip (claim 75 & 88).

With regard to dependent claims, claims 40-64 depend at least indirectly from independent claim 39; claim 66 depends directly from claim 65; and claims 76-87, depend at least indirectly from independent claim 77. As to the first set, further details are set forth with regard to the clamp portions in claims 40, 41, 47, and 49; the post of the base assembly in claims 42-45, and 48; the handle in claims 46 & 64; the collar in claims 50-52, and 56-63; and, the introduction of a latching assembly in claims 53 & 54. As to the second set, claim 66 sets out further details of the clamp portions. Finally, as to the third set, claim 76 requires that each clamp segment be pivotally supported at a clamp end of the clamp base by a pin; claims 77-79 introduce and emphasize an accessory bracket; claims 80-82 introduce and emphasize particulars of the handle; and, claims 83-87 set forth with particularity features/relationship for a post of the clamp base assembly.

Thus, for the various and plural stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims, namely, claims 39-64, 65-66, 75-87, 88 & 89 are patentably distinct from the references of record, and thus, in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Early consideration and allowance is solicited.

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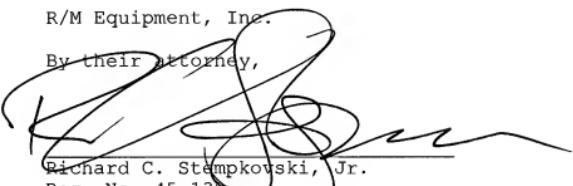
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Respectfully submitted,

R/M Equipment, Inc.

By their Attorney,

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